



Kemble & Ewen Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Friday 21 February 2014 at 7.30pm in Kemble Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors – Roger Pettit (Chairman), David Ball, Michael Binks, George Collins, Eric Silk, Gabi Somerville, Sohrab Sorabjee

Clerk: Nick Spindler

Apologies: Cllr. Lester Napper; District Councillor, John Birch.

Absent: Cllr. Amy Dyke

No members of public attended.

There were no contributions from local residents before the meeting.

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies from Cllr Napper were accepted, and DC Birch had also sent his apologies and offered any assistance required.

2. To receive any declarations of interest

DB declared an interest in items 4b and 5a.

3. The minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2014 were approved

4. Matters arising from previous meetings:

- a. Highways report – GS reported that the VAS at the airport end of the A429 is now working, and the biggest potholes on the main road had been patched. Scott Macaulay-Lowe had apologised about the delay in costing the kerbing proposals. There was debate about whether Glos. CC's approach to short-term patching was cost effective, compared to making proper permanent repairs, and in contrast to Wilts Dc who appear to use more modern techniques. ACTION: GS to raise this with Highways
- b. Kemble Station update – DB reporting encouraging progress on increasing parking capacity at a new site, as previously reported. RP reported that the track doubling work had been delayed as resources had been diverted to tackling repairs arising from recent flooding.
- c. Neighbourhood Watch/ 'Our Watch' report – it was noted that the Parish Council had funded the recent leaflet, which was thought worthwhile. Bill from Paul Waldron to be paid at next meeting.
- d. Police crime statistics – NS had circulated January's figures which had not been particularly informative, given last year saw a steep rise in crime and the current level was still cause for concern. PC Weedon was unable to attend today's meeting, but had advised that the next NCG meeting is on 18 March and had been publicised.

- e. Windmill Road landscaping – proposals from GS had been delayed due to her mislaying the entire file. ACTION: GS to expedite if possible as the funds are available.
- f. Refresh of Parish Plan – ES reported that he and RP had carried out site assessments of the 3 areas designated by CDC as part of the SHLAA review. He had circulated their draft report, and the next step is to hold a public consultation. After some discussion it was decided to present the reports at the Coffee Drop-In on Monday 17 and also on the evening on 18 March. A resident, Mike Halpin, who has been looking at the old Kemble to Tetbury line with Sustrans (the cycle track people) was willing to help update the Parish Plan, a soft copy of which had been found by GC. ACTION: MB to draft leaflet for mail drop throughout Parish. Sub-Committee selected comprising RP, ES, MB, GC, SS, DB and LN.
- g. Grass cutting tender with Coates – NS reported that contact with Coates had not been fruitful as their approach was not in line with KEPC's tendering. Agreed that in view of approaching mowing season Cottage Garden Services would be asked to continue for this year. ACTION: NS to ask them to extend at current price level.
- h. Replacement village orderly – ES reported that he and LN continue to inspect the playground weekly as required by our insurance. Some debate ensued about the attractiveness of the £7.50/hr rate previously paid, and the preference to get someone willing/able to also carry out tasks like cleaning the village entrance gates. ACTION: NS to draft advert
- i. Website report – MB reported the village website now gets 40,000 hits a month, with the Railway Station being the top topic searched for, followed by the Parish Council.
- j. Report on Cllr Dyke's absence – NS has been in touch with the Electoral Services Manager at CDC who has confirmed Amy Dyke is disqualified due to non-attendance for a period over 6 months. She will send the statutory notice offering residents the chance to propose an election for display.

5. Planning items

a. Update on Bovis Homes contact re West Lane/Top Farm

RP reported on a meeting with 2 representatives of Bovis Homes on Wednesday 19 Feb, which he described as encouraging, as they were keen to win the approval of residents towards the scheme. This was probably the first of several meetings, though they have not yet actually bought the land. Their next move is to discuss with the CDC. A possible timescale is for demolition after acquisition, followed by planting in September with building starting in 2015.

b. Other applications (for noting only)

[14/00115/TCONR](#)

Date: 15 January 2014

Location: Honeystone House, Main Street, Ewen, Kemble, GL7 6BU

Proposal: T.2 - Leylandii - fell; T.3 - Leylandii - reduce height to 2 metres

Decisions for information:

Application: [13/04813/LBC](#)

Date decided: 05 February 2014

Decision: Application Permit

Location: Bank House, Washpool Lane, Kemble, Gloucestershire, GL7 6BT,

Proposal: Replacement doors

6. Finance matters - ALL

- a. Receive and approve items for cheque payment – approved.
- b. Precept request for £20,000 submitted 31 Jan 2014 – NS confirmed this had been done.
- c. Update on Business Plan 2014-15 – GC confirmed this is on its way.
- d. Internal auditor appointment – NS confirmed that the auditor's visit would be 24 April.
- e. Grant scheme for 2013-14 – NS will publicise with a deadline on 21 March, so grants can be approved at the 28 March meeting.

7. Any other business subject to the Chairman's approval

- a. Agreed in principle to match £1k for £1k raised, to enable purchase of first defibrillator. Anne Wilton has raised c. £500 so far. She has a meeting on 27 Feb about her plans. ACTION: NS to inform her.
- b. RP discussed possibility of 'keep fit' classes for older residents. He believed this could be run at a cost of c £60 per week, including hall hire, and insurance, probably not all year. This would balance out the expenditure where younger residents often benefit today (e.g. the play area). ACTION: GC to consider budget implications; RP to revert to CDC about piloting from April.
- c. 4 parishioners attended Speedwatch training, reported NS.
- d. Suggested that Neighbourhood Watch should be invited to speak at the Public Parish Meeting on 16 May. ACTION: NS to invite Paul Waldron
- e. Ownership of the Windmill Road verge was debated as recent building of a garage on the land at no. 21 had already attracted attention and now a nearby property was being advertised for sale with implied consent to create a driveway. NS had found correspondence from January 2006 suggesting that the PC had been interested in buying the land but it was unclear if that ever proceeded, as it was not shown in the asset register. ACTION: NS to check ownership with Glos CC.
- f. CDC no longer supports the Airport Liaison meetings so RP has offered to adopt the meeting, and each Parish would take a turn. The next will be in the Village Hall. ACTION: NS to book Village Hall for daytime in early April.
- g. Noted that the 'parish council notebook' in the Parish Mag is due again, by 12th March. RP to draft an entry.
- h. ES reminded the meeting that anyone can apply for a portion of funding via John Birch re WW1 memorial. ES will put suggestion of a bench in the Jubilee bus shelter to Pat Ayres.

The meeting ended at 10:25 pm